

What is claimed is:

1. An attachment device adapted for use with a tension link, the tension link including a tension link head and shaft, the device comprising:
  - a shank having first and second ends,
  - said first end having a securing mechanism, and

5           said second end comprising a first expansion slot, a hollow core and a central aperture, wherein said second end is deformable to accommodate the insertion of the tension link head through the central aperture and into said hollow core, and wherein the tension link head is retained within said hollow core after insertion therein.
2. An attachment device as in claim 1, further comprising a second expansion slot.
3. An attachment device as in claim 2, wherein said second expansion slot is located substantially diametrically opposite to said first expansion slot.
4. An attachment device as in claim 1, wherein said second end is devoid of threads.
5. An attachment device as in claim 1, wherein said securing mechanism comprises screw threads.

6. An attachment device as in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the second end of said attachment device has a shape selected from the group consisting of: spherical, semi-spherical, aspherical, and truncated cone shape.

7. An attachment device as in claim 1, wherein said attachment device receivingly accepts a connector, said connector comprising a head receptacle that at least partially surrounds said second end and limits deformation of said second end upon securing said connector to said attachment device.

8. A method of installing a surgical implant assembly, comprising the steps of:

(a) securing an attachment device to human bone, said attachment device having a shank with first and second ends, said second end having a hollow core, a central aperture, and an expansion slot through said second end to said hollow core;

5 (b) inserting a tension link including a proximal end having a tension link head and a distal end having threads, into said attachment device by expanding said second end of said attachment device and placing said tension link head within said hollow core such that said distal end of said tension link extends through said central aperture;

10 (c) seating a connector onto at least a portion of said second end of said attachment device, wherein said distal end of said tension link extends through a tension link cavity in said connector;

(d) inserting an implant component through an aperture in said connector; and

15 (e) securing said connector to said attachment device, and said implant component to said connector by threading and tightening a link nut onto said distal end of said tension link.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connector includes a head receptacle to receive said at least a portion of said second end of said attachment device during said seating step, said head receptacle acting to partially confine said second end of said attachment device and limit expanding of said second end after said securing step.